

OAJ's "The Teacher's Voice survey" aimed to investigate the views of teachers working at different levels of education regarding their own work.

- The online survey was conducted in the spring of 2023 and received 2,271 responses.
- Of the respondents, 340 worked in early childhood education, 1,230 in primary school, 180 in high school, 295 in vocational education and training, 130 in higher education, and 100 in adult education or arts education.

News on the subject:

Only one in ten teachers is completely convinced that their professional skills and work are valued in society, according to a survey conducted by OAJ (Trade Union of Education in Finland). To address this lack of appreciation, long-term strengthening of resources is needed, says Katarina Murto, the chairperson of OAJ.

She emphasizes the importance of OAJ in anticipating future societal changes and safeguarding a high-quality education system. Only 10 percent of teachers completely agree, and 22 percent partially agree that their professional skills and work are valued in society. This information was revealed by a survey conducted by OAJ in the spring, with over 2,200 teachers working at various levels of education participating.

"The result is extremely alarming, and decision-makers need to take it seriously. According to teachers, the appreciation is not reflected in salaries, resources, or how they are included in discussions concerning their own field. Continuous reforms with budget cuts and excessive amounts of unrelated projects have burdened us for a long time. I appeal to decision-makers to better consider teachers and their views in decision-making and commit to consistently strengthening funding for education, upbringing, and research. In this regard, we are far behind other Nordic countries," says Katarina Murto, the chairperson of OAJ.

Majority of teachers feel they have autonomy in their work One positive aspect of the survey results is that teachers feel heard and able to influence their work. Three out of four respondents completely or somewhat agree that they can use pedagogical methods they consider best in their work. Similarly, six out of ten teachers feel they have enough autonomy and decision-making power in carrying out their work. "The daily life of daycare centers, schools, and educational institutions has changed as the world has changed, and an increasing number of teachers find new ways of teaching inspiring and meaningful. According to the survey, 89% of teachers see simultaneous teaching as a good working method and want to implement it in their own work," says Murto.

OTHER RESULTS NOT MENTIONED IN THE NEWS:

I can use the pedagogical methods I consider best in my work.

74% of respondents completely or somewhat agree
Those over 50 years old agreed more than those under 30 years old
Only 3% completely disagree

My pedagogical freedom has expanded in the last five years:

32% of respondents completely or somewhat agree
Respondents under 30 years old were unsure 65% of the time

I am listened to when my work is being developed:

60% of respondents completely or somewhat agree
The younger the respondent, the more they felt heard

I receive enough in-service training to develop my pedagogical skills.

44% were satisfied with this I can choose learning materials according to the learner's needs.
49% of respondents agreed, and the older the respondents, the more they agreed
31% responded that they cannot choose, and this was more common among respondents under 40 years old

Teacher education provides me with enough knowledge for my work.

Only 7% of respondents completely agree
24% partially agree
36% somewhat or completely disagree

I have enough autonomy and decision-making power in carrying out my work.

69% of respondents completely or somewhat agree